

State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



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Stay Alive

Avoid the Fatal Five JUN 09 2005

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Illinois State Police

TOP FIVE CAUSES OF FATAL CRASHES:

1. Speeding

Don't exceed the speed limit!

The leading cause in all crashes is speeding. If you drive faster than the posted speed limit, you increase your chance of becoming a fatality.

2. DUI

Don't drink and drive!

Nearly two out of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related traffic crash, with over 40 percent resulting in a fatality.

3. Seat Belts

Buckle-up!

Lap/shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat occupants by 45 percent.

4. Following Too Close

Don't tailgate!

Tailgating, or following too close, is a major cause of crashes resulting in serious injury or death.

5. Improper Lane Usage

Don't switch lanes suddenly!

Stay in your lane. Sudden lane changes without signaling causes crashes which might be avoided. Always use your turn signal. While traveling on an interstate highway, a vehicle may not be driven in the left lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle.

Seat Belts Save Lives

- ❑ Lap/shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.
- ❑ For light truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent.
- ❑ Seat belts save lives by absorbing the force of a crash and keeping the driver in position behind the steering wheel to regain control of the vehicle and passengers from striking one another.
- ❑ A seat belt can only protect you if it is used — and used properly. Provide enough seat belts for each person traveling in your vehicle.
- ❑ If all children under the age of four were restrained properly, an additional 200 lives could be saved, and 20,000 injuries prevented annually in the United States.
- ❑ Nearly 80 percent of children placed in child safety seats are not properly restrained.
- ❑ Approximately 35 percent of children age four and under are unrestrained in motor vehicles. This places them at twice the risk of death and injury than restrained children.
- ❑ The best defense against death or injury in a traffic crash is your seat belt.
- ❑ Show you care — don't start your car until all passengers are fastened.

Air Bags — as Simple as ABC

- ❑ **A**ir bag safety; **B**uckle up everybody; **C**hildren *in the back seat*
- ❑ Air bags, combined with lap/shoulder belts, offer the most effective safety protection available today for passenger vehicle occupants.
- ❑ Air bags have been shown to save more than 1,700 lives, and are 30 percent effective in reducing fatalities in a frontal crash.
- ❑ **Never** place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of cars equipped with passenger-side air bags. The impact of a deploying air bag striking a rear-facing child seat could result in injury to the child.
- ❑ **Remember** — children 12 and under ride in the back seat — the safest place for all children.
- ❑ Adults should always buckle-up snugly and sit as far back as possible, at least 10-12 inches from where the bag deploys.

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CHILD SAFETY ALERT

Children & Air Bags — It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3

1

Never put a rear-facing child seat (those used with infants) in the front seat of a car with an air bag. Your child could be in danger in a crash!

2

Make sure all children are buckled-up no matter where they sit. Unbuckled children can be hurt or killed by an air bag.

3

The rear seat is the safest place for children of any age to ride.



THE FOUR GOLDEN RULES TO CHILD SAFETY SEATS

1. Be sure your child is in the appropriate seat for the child's size and weight.
2. Be sure the child safety seat is appropriate for your vehicle (read the owner's manual for both the child safety seat and your vehicle to determine this.)
3. Ensure your child is properly placed in the safety seat each time.
4. Register the child safety seat with the manufacturer to be notified of any recalls which may affect the seat.

kids aren't cargo

For more information contact: The Illinois State Police Safety Education Unit at (217) 524-2525, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at (800) 424-9393.

SAFETY ALERT

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